

Easy Trips

for late summer

including

- ▶ A beach break to New York
- ▶ White water rafting in Norway
- ▶ A food festival in the Lake District
- ▶ Taking it easy in the Swiss Riviera



PHOTOGRAPH: JASON LANGLEY/ALAMY



A Citroën 2CV stands at the ready outside the Pavillon des Lettres

Paris the write way

'An artist has no home in Europe except in Paris,' wrote the German philosopher Nietzsche, and, from Hugo to Hemingway, the city has attracted literary greats like few others. Now the chic Pavillon des Lettres hotel – whose rooms are themed around fabled writers – has launched a break that follows in their footsteps around the most storied corners of Paris. As well as a two-night stay, guests take a private walking tour of Saint-Germain-des-Prés, the Left Bank neighbourhood known as the 'writers' corner', stopping in at the likes of Le Procope, the city's oldest café and haunt of Voltaire, the statued Jardin du Luxembourg and the legendary bookshop Shakespeare & Company. Meanwhile, a tour of the city in a classic Citroën 2CV goes for a comic book theme, inspired by such characters as Asterix and Tintin.

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📍 The Parisian Literary Affair break costs £550 for two people for two nights' stay, and includes walking and Citroën 2CV tours (pavillondeslettres.com). Close to the Champs Élysées, Pavillon des Lettres has 26 rooms themed around great European writers, with luxurious fabrics, subtle hues and lines from the artists' work inscribed on the walls.
✈️ Airlines such as Air France, BA, CityJet, easyJet, Flybe and Jet2 serve Paris from the UK (from £85; easyjet.com). Eurostar trains from London start at £72 return (eurostar.com).

Beach break in New York

New York is not renowned for comfortable August weather, but the Atlantic-hugging city actually has a crop of fine beaches that make for a great – and easy – escape from the high-summer fug of Manhattan. Rockaway Beach in Queens, for example, is just a train ride (or a scenic ferry) away – 'It's not hard, not far to reach', as the Ramones sang in their ode – and is America's largest urban beach, if not the best sandy stretch in the city, too. This local favourite has golden sand, good surfing and food from the likes of cult taco eatery Tacoway Beach. Set on a peninsula, the beach extends out to wilder areas like

Fort Tilden, where an old artillery site stands amid dunes and grass, and to Jacob Riis Park, whose brand-new beach bazaar brings live music and artisan vendors to its unspoiled coast. Alternatively, hop on the train from Penn Station to Long Beach: five miles of pristine sand flanked by a buzzing strip of shops and eateries, with a boardwalk that's perfect for a leisurely stroll or cycle. For an active day out, Jones Beach is a good choice, offering four miles of bike paths, a nature centre and two huge pools to wear yourself out in. Come evening, its open-air amphitheatre draws big names to perform under the stars.

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📍 Nycgo.com has details of beaches in all five boroughs. For more on the beaches mentioned see nycgovparks.org, jonesbeach.com, riisparkbeachbazaar.com and visitlongbeachnewyork.com.
✈️ American Airlines, BA, Delta and United are among airlines that fly to New York from UK cities like London, Manchester and Edinburgh (from £385; aa.com).
🏠 Located in the lively Lower East Side of Manhattan, newly refurbished Off Soho Suites has smart, spacious living areas with hardwood floors and kitchens (from £100; offsoho.com).



New York's Rockaway Beach gets waves that are suitable for beginners at surfing

PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID GRIMBERT; MICHAEL MARQUAND/GETTY IMAGES; IMAGE COURTESY OF YORK MUSEUMS TRUST (YORK ART GALLERY)

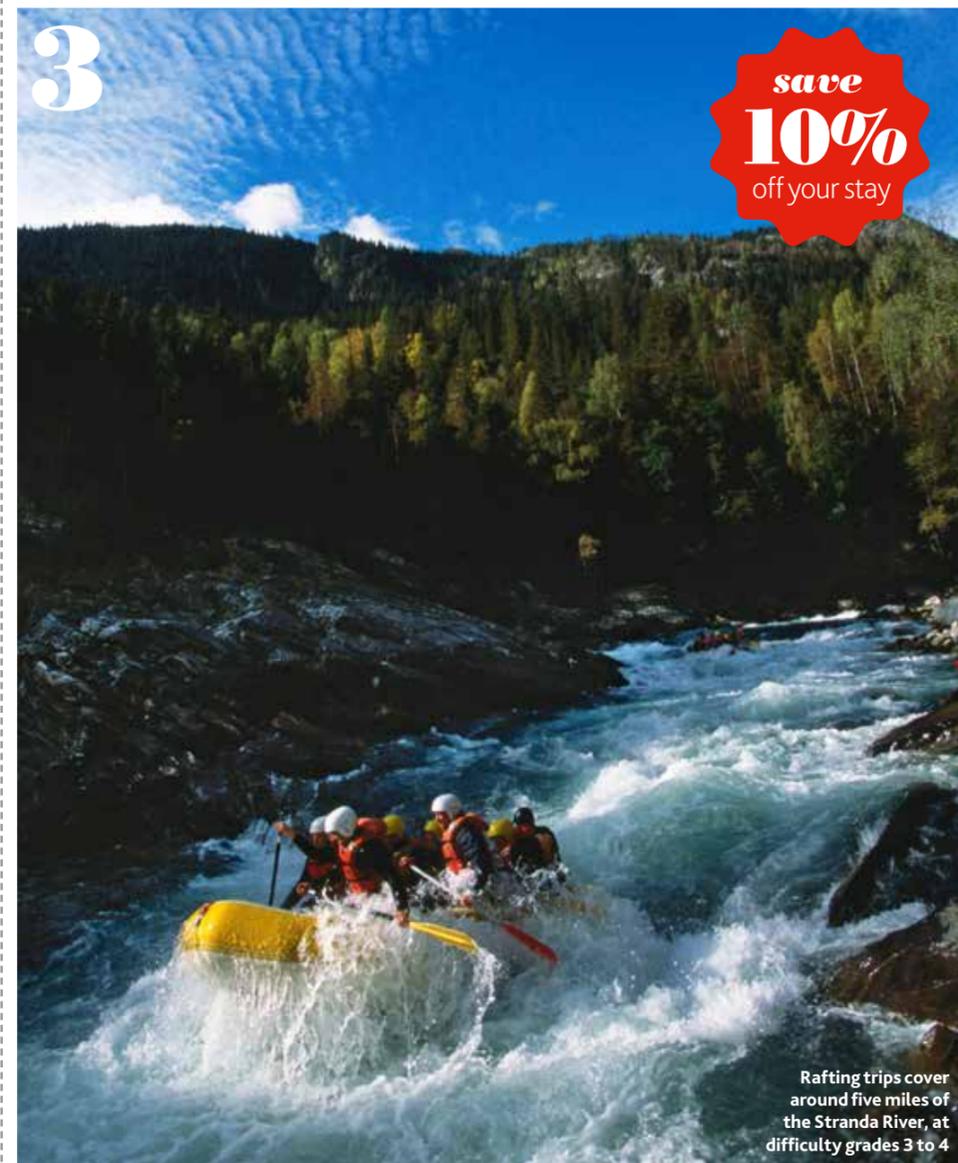
White water adventures in Norway

The prospect of navigating through Norwegian waters typically brings to mind images of ships gliding along serene fjords with stately mountains rising on all sides. In the town of Voss, however, taking a boat trip is an entirely different matter: one that involves raging torrents of water, frantic paddling and a considerable likelihood of capsizing. Late summer is a perfect time to head out on a rafting trip in the region, with river temperatures as kind as they ever get at these northerly latitudes. Captained by expert tutors, deckhands paddle their way down the cascades of the Stranda River, snatching glimpses of

forested slopes and rocky cliffs in the surrounding countryside. If the water levels in the river get too low, participants go canyoning instead. Like rafting, it involves floating with the current and steering between boulders (except without the boat). Having wrung out your soggy underwear, bear westwards to Bergen, Norway's most handsome city. At its core lies the World Heritage-listed Bryggen quarter, with its higgledy-piggledy wooden warehouses, many from the early 18th century, which now house boutiques and cafés, but once were a home to fearless Norwegian seafarers of old.

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✈️ Voss Rafting offers rafting and canyoning excursions in the town of Voss from May to October, with rates including a hot meal (from £95pp; vossrafting.no).
🏠 Occupying a futuristic timber structure, the Myrkdalen Hotel has handsome rooms with views over gently rolling hills (from £110; myrkdalen.no). Quote 'Lonely Planet Traveller' when booking by 31 October for 10% off your stay.
✈️ Norwegian flies to Bergen from Gatwick, BA flies from Heathrow (from £105; norwegian.com). Car hire is available at Bergen airport (from £75 per day; europcar.co.uk).



save
10%
off your stay

Rafting trips cover around five miles of the Stranda River, at difficulty grades 3 to 4



A vase by Kate Malone inspired by garlic buds, at York Art Gallery

New art in York

This year's Yorkshire Day – residents' celebration of God's Own Country every 1 August – is set to roll around with even more fanfare than usual, as the prestigious York Art Gallery reopens its doors after a major redevelopment. Set inside a listed Victorian building, the gallery now has lots more space to show off a collection that includes Italian Old Masters and works by 20th century greats like LS Lowry, David Hockney and Sarah Lucas – plus a new Centre of Ceramic Art housing the world's largest collection of British studio ceramics (more than 5,000 pieces). Set across two floors, and featuring a 17-metre-long 'rainbow wall' of pots, the centre will open with a new work by artist Claire Twomey of 10,000 handmade bowls piled in towering columns, whilst elsewhere, exhibits on York and its history draw on everything from ink to taxidermy.

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📍 York Art Gallery reopens on 1 August (£7.50; yorkartgallery.org.uk). Read more about Yorkshire Day at yorkshire.com.
✈️ York is about 90 minutes by train from Manchester (from £15 return; nationalrail.co.uk), two hours from London (from £29), 2¼ hours from Birmingham (from £36) and 2½ hours from Edinburgh (from £44).
🏠 Set in a 19th-century house, Mount Royale Hotel has stately rooms full of antiques, some with four-posters or terraces leading into its beautiful gardens (from £125; mountroyale.co.uk).



A fine selection of fudge for sale at a previous Great British Food Festival

Britain on a plate

Anyone who watched *The Great British Bake Off* and longed to spend a fine summer's day strolling the grounds of a stately home and eating cake under canvas should consider heading to the Lake District for the late August bank holiday. For three days, the Great British Food Festival – effectively, if not officially, the event equivalent of the hit TV show – will take over the grounds of Dalemain, an imposing Georgian mansion near Penrith. The line-up includes demonstrations by former *Bake Off* contestants (who will also be judging amateur efforts), stalls from 80 British food producers offering everything from artisanal fudge to homemade pickle, and generous servings of great street food. There will also be cooking lessons for children, plus foraging walks that roam across the estate's acres of magnificent parkland.

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✦ The Great British Food Festival takes place 29–31 August (£7.50, or £20 for a family ticket; greatbritishfoodfestival.com). There are also events in Cheshire and Warwickshire in September. 🏠 Lowthwaite B&B is a 15-minute drive from Dalemain, in the peaceful valley of Matteredale. Rooms are bright with big wooden beds (from £90; lowthwaiteullswater.com) 📍 Dalemain is near Penrith, a few minutes' drive from the M6. Penrith is served by direct trains from Edinburgh, London and Manchester (nationalrail.co.uk).

Cruise Turkey's Turquoise Coast

As the Indian Ocean has its dhows, and the Far East its junks, so Turkey has the gulet. These wooden sailing ships, thought to descend from the Mediterranean schooner of old, serve as the quintessential means of exploring the hundred miles or more of the Turquoise Coast, where the crinkled shoreline of southwest Turkey leaves the waters of the Aegean behind and curves towards the eastern Mediterranean. Most gulets have a half-dozen small cabins aboard, and though it's usually more practical for the crew to use the ship's motor rather than unfurl the sails, the rhythm of a gulet cruise remains appealingly

slow. As summer draws to a close, so does the main gulet season, but there is still time to fit in a last jaunt. Starting and finishing in the town of Fethiye, the Blue Cruise takes in the fishing ports of Kaş and Kalkan, swimming spots such as Tarzan Bay (there's an appropriate rope swing), a chance to kayak out to see an ancient submerged town at Kekova and an optional excursion inland to explore the white rocks of Saklikent Gorge. One historic figure looms large here: St Nicholas, also known as Father Christmas. The splendid ruins of Patara, his birthplace, are bordered by the longest sandy beach in the region.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

📍 Explore Worldwide's Blue Cruise is an eight-day tour by gulet along the Turquoise Coast, beginning and ending in Fethiye, with accommodation in twin rooms on the boat. Prices start at £675pp without flights, or £899pp with flights included, in groups of around 10 to 16 people. Departures run until 10 October 2015 (explore.co.uk). 📍 The closest airport to Fethiye is Dalaman, 30 miles away by road. Airlines including BA, easyJet, Jet2, Pegasus, Thomas Cook and Thomson fly there direct from the UK (from £180; easyjet.com).



The word 'gulet' is thought to come from the French 'goélette', for schooner

PHOTOGRAPHS: NIGEL CHAPMAN PHOTOGRAPHY; EXPLORE STAFF; MATTHEW WILLIAMS-ELLIS/ROBERT HARDING



Pub breaks and scenic walks in Surrey

The type of character propping up the bar at the Running Horses has changed somewhat in the 500 years it's been open. In the 18th century, travellers – and the highwaymen they attracted – would overnight at the coaching inn on their way between London to Brighton. One hundred years later, trainers and jockeys took over, stabling their horses here before racing at Epsom. Now, you're most likely to bump into a rambler or cyclist recovering over a pint of Brakspear from the day's exertions at

nearby Box Hill, or oenophiles laden with wine from the rolling vineyards of Denbies Wine Estate. Most make their way into the more formal, wood-panelled dining room, for top-quality British dishes high on local, seasonal produce. The twice-baked cheddar soufflé is a particular delight. Upstairs, the guest rooms are eminently comfortable places to rest limbs, weary or otherwise, with classic country styling, Hypnos mattresses and, in some, rolltop baths.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The pub has had its current name since 1828; Box Hill; the Sandown room; the Running Horses' fish pie



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🏠 There are five rooms at the Running Horses; prices start at £110 (therunninghorses.co.uk). Mains in the downstairs restaurant cost from £13, up to £63 for a Chateaubriand steak for two people. 📍 The pub is in Mickleham village, near Dorking in Surrey. The nearest train station is 1½ miles away at services from London (from £18 return; nationalrail.co.uk).

✦ Box Hill, familiar to many from the London 2012 Olympics, when it hosted the road cycling events, is a mile away. There are a number of trails on and around the hill, including one with a stepping-stone bridge. Find out more at nationaltrust.org.uk/box-hill. 🍷 Denbies Wine Estate is one of the UK's largest producers. Take a tour of its vineyards or stock up on produce from its farm shop (tours from £6; denbies.co.uk).



Backstreet bars crowd into the historic city centre of Leipzig

Leipzig lifestyle

Berlin's cool little brother, the east German city of Leipzig has become a magnet for creatives squeezed out by the capital's higher rents. Here, studios, galleries, shops and cafés occupy reclaimed industrial spaces such as a vast former cotton mill at Spinnerei (spinnerei.de), and Tapetenwerk (tapetenwerk.de), an old wallpaper factory, both in Plagwitz. The city's most happening district, this is the place for a night out; begin with a local beer and a live band at dilapidated venue Noch Besser Leben (nochbesserleben.com), then work your way through the bars of Karl-Heine-Strasse. Leipzig isn't all about the counter-culture, though: it's full of beautiful green spaces like Clara Zetkin Park, Art Nouveau architecture such as the Mädler Passage, and is also a centre for classical music, hosting regular performances at the avant-garde Gewandhaus concert hall (gewandhausorchester.de).

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- 1 Find more tips on Leipzig at new website hidden-leipzig.com, also available as a free app.
- 1 You can fly direct to Leipzig from London Stansted with Ryanair (from £70; ryanair.com), or via Frankfurt, Munich and other German cities with Lufthansa and its affiliates from several major UK cities.
- 1 Meisterzimmer in the Spinnerei offers four spacious, high-ceilinged apartments dotted with reclaimed furniture (from £55; meisterzimmer.de).

The greatest Swiss lake

When the snow melts in the ski resorts of the Swiss Valais, all that water has to go somewhere, and that somewhere is Lake Geneva. The largest Alpine lake is a summer scene-stealer: stately paddle-steamers ply the waters of what's been dubbed the Swiss Riviera, while on land the World Heritage-listed vineyards of the Lavaux region are busy soaking in every ray of sun that comes their way in the last weeks before harvest. A trip of just over 50 miles along the northern, Swiss shore of this banana-shaped body of water (called lac Léman in French) takes in everything from Geneva at the western end to Montreux at the

eastern tip. The latter town has several musical strings to its bow (Queen's former recording studio, annual jazz festival), and just beyond it, guarding the approaches to the Alps, is the waterside Château de Chillon – one of Europe's most evocative castles. The city of Lausanne, in between, spills down the hillsides from its cathedral-crowned medieval centre to the shoreside stretch of Ouchy, home to the official Olympic Museum and all kinds of watercraft: pedalos, kayaks, sailboats. East of here, vineyard-wrapped villages such as Lutry and Cully make the ideal spot for a sun-downer on a lake-view terrace.

MAKE IT HAPPEN

- 1 Find out more about the area at lake-geneva-region.ch.
- 1 Geneva Airport is the gateway to the region. Summer services run here from Bristol, Edinburgh, Gatwick, Heathrow, Liverpool, London City, Luton, Manchester and Newcastle on BA, easyJet and Swiss (from £75; easyjet.com). Trains run along the whole Swiss shore of the lake (Geneva Airport to Lausanne from £19; sbb.ch).
- 1 The grand old Auberge du Raisin is a 10-room hotel with a stand-out restaurant in Cully, part of the Lavaux wine region (from £110; aubergeduraisin.ch).



The medieval Château de Chillon was the focus of a poem by Lord Byron, who visited the castle in 1816

PHOTOGRAPHS: TIM ALLSOP, DIRK BRZOSKA, JAMES DARLING, JASON LANGLEY/ALAMY, WAY OUT WEST PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY



Seal the deal

Near white-sand beaches lapped by turquoise waters, a sea mammal circles a snorkeller and takes a playful nip at their fins. This seemingly exotic scene plays out 28 miles from the coast of Cornwall, among the Isles of Scilly. Until the end of September, Scilly Seal Snorkelling takes groups in search of the Atlantic grey seals that gather near the pristine small island of St Martin's to feed and breed (incidentally, the slightly mean scientific name of these graceful creatures, *Halichoerus grypus*,

translates from Latin as 'hook-nosed sea pig'). For encounters of a different sort with Scilly marine life, take a short boat ride to Bryher. Here the Crab Shack at the Hell Bay hotel serves locally caught crabs drenched in butter, with chilli and ginger, parsley and garlic or lemon and chives, and offered in medium (i.e. huge), large (gigantic) and monster (accurate description) sizes. Stagger, replenished, to your bay-view room, before rising to collect eggs for breakfast from the hen coops nearby.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Hell Bay's hen coops and Crab Shack; tucking in to a 'medium' crab; the white sands of St Martin's; face-to-whiskery-snout with an Atlantic grey seal

free
bottle of
champagne



MAKE IT HAPPEN

- 1 The Scilly Seal Snorkelling experience lasts three hours and sets off from Higher Town on St Martin's (£44pp inc wetsuit, snorkelling equipment and a hot drink, or £41pp for groups of four or more; scillysealsnorkelling.com).
- 1 Rooms at the Hell Bay hotel start at £170. Quote 'Lonely Planet Traveller' when booking to stay between 6 August and 23 October for a free bottle of champagne

worth £48. The Crab Shack is open until 10 September this year (medium crab £20; hellbay.co.uk). 1 St Mary's is reachable via ferry from Penzance (2.45 hrs; from £86) or by air from Land's End, Newquay or Exeter (from £160 from Land's End; islesofscilly-travel.co.uk). Tresco Boat Services runs between St Mary's and St Martin's or Bryher; scheduled services between St Martin's and Bryher on Mon, Weds and Fri only (£9.20; tresco.co.uk).